OFFERING IDEAS WITH OBJECT LESSON

I WILL PUT A DATE NEXT TO THE LESSON OF WHEN WE HAVE LAST DONE IT.

I WILL PUT THE OFFERING SCRIPTURE ON THE PROJECTOR SCDREEN FOR TH

6 TO 12 YR OLDS

Note that the little kiddies' dates are in green and the older kids' are in GREEN

3-5s 6-12s

Here are unique ideas to receive an offering in your children's ministry.

A lot of kids have giving hearts, and we should give them an opportunity to give — not only their money, but also their time and talents..

When children learn how to give tithes and offerings at a young age, they carry the practice into adulthood. Like many other subjects, kids aren't going to remain interested in lessons on stewardship unless you make the lessons **engaging**.

Some general guidelines:

Keep it short , 2min

Have an object in your hand or a picture on the screen

Ask them questions.

Ask them to put their hands up and not shout.

Get some or all of them involved with questions or actions, let some of them stand in front, pray or take up the offering

Say: If you did not bring money today, just pretend to give your heart. Demonstrate what this would look like.

Don't take up the offering yourself, ask one of the kids to do it.

At the end you could ask: "Who would like to pray for the offering?"
Give a guideline like: "Say thank you to God for using our mony what we give to make His Kingdom grow."

1. Be part of sowing and reaping 22/1/23 22/1/23 11/4/24

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)

God likes to remind us all the time that sowing and reaping is a God-thing.
Sowing seeds (money) and reaping a harvest (more money, more souls, more blessings) is a natural and supernatural way of God.
Participate in the harvest that God has for us by sowing your gift today.

Have seeds and a plant or a fruit to show the kids
You could give the seeds to put into the bag and say: "Take my gift, God. Thank you for a harvest"
(They might want to keep one seed, so have enough to keep and to give away)

2. Show where your treasure is 12/1/23 26/1/23 27/8/23 16/4/23

… with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where there are no thieves and no moth to destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also." (Luke 12)

Decorate the offering bag/box with tinsel or anything shiny so it will represent heaven.
Have your handbag ready
Say: Today this box is heaven and the church, and my handbag is earth. Place them on opposite sides.
Ask: **What is more important**: the short while we live on earth or the looooooooooooong time we will live in heaven?
Can we take our money to heaven when we die? No
What is the only thing we can take to heaven? Our self and our friends
God says that if we give our money (our treasures) to the church, we are saying that we think that to have our friends and ourselves in heaven is much more important than having money on earth.
Let's show God what we believe.

3. Why You Give

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

The first law of thermodynamics states that matter cannot be created or destroyed. There is a similar moral principle in the Bible about good and evil. What you put out into God’s creation will bring a return for good or evil. What you add to the wellbeing of life on earth, you receive back in fulfillment. What you take and scratch and steal will be taken, scratched, and stolen back.

God desires to multiply that good through us now while we’re on earth. That’s why he created the church. So I’d like to ask of you, today, to give because that’s why God created you — to enjoy him and to bring that joy to others.

4. Giving to God keeps me Close to God11/6/23

“A gift opens receiver’s heart and takes the giver closer to great and important people.” (Proverbs 18:16)

Have some sweeties or gifts ready to give to a child.
Get two children (no.1 and no.2) who are new to the group, to stand in front. Give the sweeties to one of the children.
Then get another child (no.3) to come to the front (one that the two in front might not know well), but to stand far away on the one side of the stage.
Ask no.1 to go and give some of his sweeties to the third child and return to his place. Then ask him to run to the opposite wall, far away from no 3.
(You could repeat this a few times in different spots in the hall if you would like to)
Ask no.2 to just wave at no 3.
Then ask no. 1: If no. 3 is an important person in your life…like your dad, and you are going to want to give him gifts all the time, would you be living close to him or far from him?

If you give your offering to God, you open your own heart towards Him even more. And giving gifts to God keeps you close to this most important Person.

Give happily 19/3/23 26/11/23

Corinthians 9:7 Each one of you should give what your have decided in your heart to give, not because you HAVE TO. For God loves a cheerful giver.

(Have a toy sword or watergun as a prop)
Who of you….on your mom’s birthday, who of your dads says: You MUST give your mom a card or a flower or a gift otherwise you will not get food today? Or I will shoot you with my water gun if you do not give her a gift! I will challenge you to a sword fight if you do not give her a gift!
(Jump around and act as if you are fighting)

He does not have to **force** you or do you do it? Who of you like to give your Mom ‘n gift on her birthday?
(Give time for them to put their hands up)
It is because you like your mom, hey?
Will it make your mom **happy** if she knows that you gave her a card because your dad **forced** you to do it?
Will it make you happy if she knew that you really wanted to do it, because you l**ove** her?

It is the same with God. He wants us to give because we **love** Him, because we **want** to.

5. Give like God gives 5/3/23 21/4/24

…be rich in good works. And tell them they should be **happy to give** and ready to share. [19] By doing this, they will be saving up a treasure for themselves. And that treasure will be a strong foundation on which their future life will be built. They will be able to **have the life that is true life**… (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

In important ways, **money is power**. You cannot do much in this world if you don’t have money. You can’t eat or have a home or watch tv! God has more power than anyone. He **shares it with us freely**.
It is like this **water in this jug**. God pours his power onto us, and we do as He does, and pours it our onto those around us. (pour the jug water into a **watering can** and then pour that water into a **big dish.** There is a big plastic dish at church)
As His children we love to do what He does, we follow His example. Therefore we GIVE our power; our money away to the church and our city. I ask that you would give

now so that God’s power can flow through us and we can do what He would like to do: Care for the church and the city.

6. ...giving *offering* is remembering God gave me *everything...*26/4/23

“You shall **remember** the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to be well and have money.” (From Deuteronomy 8:18)

Some of us have pets or kids that we love. It is my pleasure to give my kids food. Do some of you have the job **of feeding the dog/cat/fish**, pet snake at home? (Have bowl of your pet)
Have you ever forgotten to do it?
Does that mean that you do not love your pet anymore?
It just means that you forgot!
When I need to remember something very important, I set a **reminder** on my phone. It will play a tune when I need to do something.
It sounds like this (play a very loud, happy tune)
Then I jump into action and do what I wanted to remember

It is the same with God. We want to remember that He **gave us everything and we can be thankful,** but sometimes we forget.
Giving money to the church is like a reminder to ourselves, that God gave us everything and we are soooo thankful!

If I remember that I need to feed the cat and I tell him: “Hey,Snap, I remembered to feed you! Yay!” (Put the bowl on your head like a hat) but you don’t do it. Will your cat be happy?
NO! You need to actually give him food! With your hands!!
(put the bowl on the floor and pretend to give him food and stroke his back)

Same with God: we don’t just say: God, I love you, I remember that You give me everything, yay!” and then DO nothing.
I get my money out of my wallet and put it in the car in the secret place, so that I have my money on Sunday and I will SHOW God that I love Him and that I remembered Him and all He had given me.

7. We Give Because We Get It

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Have you ever listened to someone that makes you think: "Wow. They get it!" Maybe it's a podcaster who articulates your political views very well, or a book that explains you better than you could explain yourself. But we all know what it's like to love finding someone else who gets it, whatever it is.

God loves everybody. But what he loves about a cheerful giver is that they get it. They get the connection between spiritual growth and generosity. They get that giving is itself a blessing to the giver. They get it. Not that those who aren't in a position to give don't get it. But there are far more of those who can and don't, and those who think they can't, but probably could.

To both of you, God says: "I love a cheerful giver!"

8. Lack of Generosity Causes Spiritual Stiffness

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!" (Psalm 119:36)

It's interesting how the Psalmist contrasts God's testimonies with selfish gain. Note, too, that there is no contrast between gain and God's testimonies—only selfish gain.

But what makes something selfish? For the Psalmist, it has to do with the heart, since he prays "Incline my heart … not to selfish gain!" The physical heart can do many things, but the spiritual heart does a few big things. One thing is to hold or release.

When you think of your money, does your heart hold or release? If it can release, it's not selfish gain. If it can't, it might be lingering beneath the surface.

One way God helps us fight against grasping so tightly onto our money that it gets in the way of God's testimonies to us is to give to the church. God tells us to do it, and he knows it's an ailment for hearts that are often inclined toward selfishness. Would you release your heart today and give to God as we incline our heart toward his testimonies?

9. Give like a penguin 21/5/23 10/9/23

“All day long the lazy child craves for more, but the child who is right with God (righteous) gives without holding back.” (From Proverbs 21:26)

(Have a pic or stuffed toy of a whale and a penguin)

If a **person is lazy** to do his work so he can get pocket money, he will not have much money and he will **want** nice food and toys and pets. He will **always be craving and wanting**, but not getting.
Like a huge whale: **The Southern Right Whale** eats only tiny sea creature called plankton so it is **never full,** it eats and eats and just **wants more!**

The child of God, by contrast, is like an **Emperor Penguin**. They go for two months without food so he can rather look after his egg. When the egg hatches, he **gives his food** to the chick.
The child of God **gives away** toys and pocket money and snacks and does not hold on to it.

To give a portion of our salary or pocket money or things away to God or other people, keeps our hearts **reminded of God who:**
- gives us all we need,
- asks **us to give generously** and then
- blesses us in return.

10. Giving is a Spiritual Gift

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8)

You all have many gifts. Some are called to give more, and some are called to give less. But when we are called to give, we are called to give generously.

Would you consider being the body of Christ with us by giving now, in our weekly opportunity to give back to god?

11. Give to God’s Kingdom

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

Notice the connection the Apostle Paul makes between increasing your store of seed and enlarging the harvest of your righteousness. When we are equipped with enough resources to give generously, our capacity to produce a greater effect is increased.

Paul makes a holy assumption here that, as God supplies, the Corinthians by the time of his writing would use the blessings appropriately—that is, for righteous works, such as funding the mission and work of the church.

Join me in practicing the Apostle Paul’s generous assumption here today as we give to the Lord with what he has given us.

12. When We Give, We Become Like Christ

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

It is tempting to always look for the “return on investment” on your generosity. And that is worthwhile, because we must be excellent stewards of God’s money. But sometimes, generosity is more about what God is doing in us through giving than it is about knowing exactly how that gift will be used.

We are entering that moment right now in our service, when we are all challenged once again to believe the promise of Jesus; “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Will you join me in trusting this promise by giving to the church?

13. Create Margin in Your Life

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

God doesn’t care if we have 2 pennies or 2 Billion dollars. When we give according to what we have, we please him with an offering from the heart. He works in us to create margin so that we are not always busting at our budget’s seams.

Today, I am inviting you to create margin in your life — no matter what you make — to make margin for God to work, for you to breathe, and for the church to thrive.

14. Give What is Precious 28/1/24 28/1/24

“All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord.” (Exodus 35:22)

Who of your moms let you play with her wedding ring? Do you wear her diamond earrings? Or grandma’s expensive brooch?
If this is your mom’s pure gold diamond engagement ring, that your dad gave her 20 years ago, would you give it to someone? Or maybe just toss it to someone like this:
(Throw it into the middle of the group as if you do not care about it)
(Wait for someone to bring it back)
No, moms do not allow that because these things are too precious and important to them.

And still, when God asked the men and women to bring this special offering, they did not say, no. They gave generously what they loved.
I will not ask you to give us your cellphones or your jewellery, but you all have some money that you can give. Any amount is good. God looks at your heart, not your amount.
Remember for next time if you want to give money next Sunday.

15. God Gets to You What He Can Get through You

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

There is a deep connection between wealth and opportunity. Every dollar that passes through our hands is a transfer of power. And how we use that power is something that shapes us, for better or worse.

One of the ways God turns us into more generous, thankful, joyful people is by blessing us with money so that we can give it back to the kingdom and “result in thanksgiving to god.”

Will you join with me in becoming a thankful people by giving back to the kingdom?

16. The Church is Meant to Be a Financial Force for Good

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

The connection between what we do in this life, and how we are rewarded in the next, becomes very vague when you get into the details. What can we really expect from God? God loves this question and puts the metaphor in Scripture — he says, “Let’s pretend a tithe is a consumer transaction. Let’s say you’re paying me, whom you know, trust, and love, money to return the cost of that gift to you in a form of my choosing, because I know and love you.”

God promises to bless us when we give—that blessing may be spiritual enrichment, the joy of being used by God, or something more concrete. But the point is that what we give to God, we always get back. So join me in trusting God that whatever he gives us in return, it will be worth it.

17. Look at What God Has Done through Your Generosity

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:24-25)

When we fail to cultivate generosity, it is easy to isolate ourselves from the natural give-and-take of human relationships, and so we experience no give or take.

Giving is a way of opening ourselves to opportunity. When we choose to be God’s opportunity of help and love for another person, we place ourselves in God’s design for giving and receiving from one another.

Would you step into this opportunity to be like the one who gives freely in Proverbs?

18. The Experience of Giving Changes Us

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

Paul wrote this after receiving a financial gift from the Philippian church. He says: “Because you made a financial sacrifice to the church as an expression of God’s

generosity to you, both the ministry it produces and the satisfaction of being used by God will be all the sweeter."

There's something irreplaceable about giving. It does something in us — it makes us uncomfortable in a way that we need, but scarcely want. But we all want to be the kind of people that being generous makes us.

Would you make a financial sacrifice for the sake of the kingdom as an expression of your gratitude toward God's generosity toward you in christ?

19. Give to Worship God

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

The author of Hebrews speaks of giving as a discipline. Notice that he could have equated doing good with anything.

"Do not neglect to do good and to pray."

"Do not neglect to do good and to study the Bible."

"Do not neglect to do good and to volunteer at church."

But he says something else — something at the heart of doing good: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Will you join me in making a sacrifice pleasing to God by sharing what you have with the kingdom today?

20. Grow God's Legacy By Giving

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30)

We often forget how rich God is. Asking you to give to the church doesn't help God's financial reputation. If everything belongs to him, why do we give a tithe back to him?

One reason is that we need to remember that God really does own everything. Even the national parks belong to him — "everything from the land … belongs to the Lord."

Let us stand in awe of the holiness of God today as we practice recognition of his Lordship by giving a tithe back to him.

Over to you

Use these church offering scripts to strengthen the attention and responsiveness you can command through putting hard, refining work into your giving appeal each Sunday. They will not only help you effectively communicate what *is* tithes and offering, but it will also leave your congregants with encouragement about giving tithes and offerings.

In less than 15-minutes, a preacher who regularly gives a sermon on Sunday could reflect and create a fresh angle on the giving appeal in light of some new event, celebration, thought, or holiday that would create a trust in your congregants that you will reward attention given to the giving appeal with fresh and fulfilling insight.

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1 Giving is Greater Than Receiving 8/5/22 8/5/22 4/9/22

- Read Acts 20:35 with the kids - "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
- Ask the kids which the Bible says is better...giving or receiving?
- But it's even better to give to help others because you're like Jesus when you give. He came to give instead of receive
- **You receive even when you give** and **even more** when you give!

Hand one child 3 beads to give away to 3 other kids. As he gives one bead away, give him a round chocolate ball or round sweet similar to a bead, until all beads are given away.
He is **being blessed more than the one who is receiving the bead**. This is how it works in the Kingdom of God. You might not get a bead back, but **what God gives you is a much better gift**. It is much more satisfying and enjoyable.





Don't Close Your Eyes

- Read Proverbs 28:27 with the kids - "Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed."
- Bring up a picture of kids in need.
- Explain that there are people locally and around the world who are in need. They are in need physically and spiritually.
- When we see this, we have two choices.
- We can respond by giving or close our eyes to their needs.
- Have the kids close their eyes to the picture of the kids in need for a few seconds and then open them back up.
- Encourage kids to not close their eyes to those in need, but to look and respond by giving their offering to help others both physically and spiritually.
- When you do this, God has promised to provide for your needs.

2 Overflowing 10/4/22 24/04/22

Have two clear cups, a jar of water and a big bowl (to 'overflow' into) ready

- Read Luke 6:38 with the kids - "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap."
- Hold up an empty clear cup.
- Have another clear cup that is half full with water.
- Pour some water from the half full cup into the empty cup.
- Bring out a clear jar of water.
- Use the jar to overflow the cup you poured water from.
- Explain as you are doing this that when we give, God has promised to fill us back up to overflowing. You can't out give God.

3 World's Tallest Tree

- Show a picture of General Sherman - the tallest tree in the world. It is located in Sequoia National Park. It is 102 feet around and 275 feel tall.
- It started as a simple seed that was planted in the ground years ago. (hold up a small seed and show the kids)
- When you give your offering, it's like planting a seed. It will grow into big things and make a big impact in people's lives.

4 The Half-Eaten Apple 4/10

- Have the kids read Matthew 6:33a with you - "Seek the kingdom of God first."

- Hold up two apples - one whole and one half-eaten.
- Explain that we should put God first with our money (hold up the whole apple).
- When we don't give Him 10% or we give Him whatever is left over after we finish spending on things we want, it's like we are giving him the leftovers (hold up the half-eaten apple).
- Put God first in your giving.

5 Keep on giving, even if it is a Little

- Show R1 coin and a R50 bill.
- The Bible says if you keep on giving a little, then God will give you more.
- You may not have a lot of money to give as a child. Maybe you get a little money from your allowance, birthday gifts, chores, etc. Whatever it is, it's not likely a thousand rands.
- God says: Give what you have got. And as you are faithful with R1, then God may give you thousands of rands one day.

6 Smiling or Frowning? 2/2/22 22/9/22 24/7/22

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 with the kids - "Each one of you should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver."
- Show a picture of the frowning face. We can give money to God with a bad attitude. Perhaps because your parents make you or you feel guilty.
- Show a picture of the smiling face. Or we can give with a good attitude that says, "I'm giving this back to God because He is awesome and I love Him. He deserves my best!"

7 When You Love Someone 8/5/22 29/5/22 29/5/22 6/11/22 13/11/22

- Share about a time you gave a gift to someone because you loved them. (examples - ring to wife, gift for family member, money to someone you wanted to help, etc.)
- Bring an example of a very precious gift to show the kids.
- Explain that we have the opportunity each week to show God how much we love Him by giving our offering.
- FIND A SCRIPTURE THAT WILL GO WITH THIS MESSAGE

8 Guess How Much Money Is In My Pocket Oct Dec Dec

- Give the kids a quick glance at some money in a bowl. Ask them to guess how much it is.
- Pull out the coins and reveal how much you have. See who was closest and give a reward
- Explain that God knows everything. He knows how much money we have.
- One of the ways we can worship Him for being so awesome, powerful and all-knowing, is by giving back some of our money to Him.

9 Meeting the Needs of Others 17/04

Say: **One way to thank God for giving us what we need, is to let him use us to meet the needs of others. We should look for ways to care for others as God cares for us. Give each person a small envelope and a pencil.**

'because you did it to one of the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me.'
Mat 25:39

Ask

- **Why does God want to use us to meet needs?** (Because we are Christians; because we are supposed to be a light to others.)
- **How can we help meet the needs of others?** (Give some of our things to charity; listen to a friend who is sad; share with others.)
- **How does giving our offerings show God we're thankful that he meets our needs?** (We are giving back to God when we give to others)

Say: **On your envelope, list 3 ways in which God cares for you, or draw a picture of how God takes care of you. Then fold your paper and slip your money into it if you have brought something.**
If you did not bring money today, draw a heart on your paper.
As you put your envelopes in the bowl, thank God for meeting your needs.

Pass the offering bowl, and have children put their envelopes in it.

10 Responding to God in Worship nov

Say: **Today we've been talking about responding to God in worship. Our offering is also a way to worship God and to thank him. Second Corinthians 9:7 says, "God loves a cheerful giver." Let's give our offerings joyfully today. But before we bring our offerings, think of the one thing you love most about God. Praise God for that thing when the offering bowl comes to you.**

Let giving flow from your heart,
not from a sense of religious duty.
Let it spring up freely
from the joy of giving—

all because God loves hilarious generosity!

2 Corinthians 9:7

Pass the offering bowls.

11 Seeing Inside Our Hearts nov

Give each child a tissue. Have children tear the tissues into heart shapes. Tissues generally come in two-ply thicknesses. Have the children separate the layers of the tissues so they have a heart shape that's only one-ply thick.

Say: **See how easily we can see through these hearts? The Bible tells us that God sees inside our hearts. He knows what we're thinking and feeling. He knows when we're worshipping him with sincere hearts. And he knows when we're just going through the motions. God has done so much for us, and he deserves our honest, sincere worship. As we take the offering this morning, talk to God. Think about promising God that you'll worship him with a sincere heart. If you're ready, you can make that promise to God.**

Take the offering. Have the children take their hearts home as reminders to worship God with sincere hearts.

12 Showing God's Love to Others 22/5/22

Hand each child a slip of paper and something to write with.

Say: **Today as we take our offering, I want you to write the name (or draw a picture) of one person who has not been kind to you on your piece of paper. As the offering bowl comes by you, put the piece of paper in it, and ask God to help you love that person and treat him or her in a way that would honor God. Remember — as you show God's love to that person, you are worshipping God in your everyday life. If you can't think of a name to put on your paper, write the name of a friend who might need God's help in a hard situation. If you have an offering today, put that in the bowl also.**

Choose several children to help collect the offering. Encourage older children to assist younger children with the writing if necessary.

13 Balloon Offering

Direct the children to sit in a circle on the floor.

Say: **Let's celebrate God's love and care with a balloon offering! First we're going to worship God by giving to him. God has given us so much. Let's thank him with our gifts of money. Pass around the offering bowls.**

Pray: **Dear God, please accept these gifts. We know that you can do all things, including taking away our fears. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Pass around uninflated balloons, and have each child take one. Distribute permanent markers, and have the children carefully write their names on the balloons. Make sure older children help any younger children who need help writing their names.

Direct the children to blow up their balloons and hold on to the ends tightly. Have older children blow up balloons for younger children. Explain that, all together, children will thank God for releasing them from fear and will then release their balloons. Lead the children in thanking God for releasing them from fear, and let children release their balloons.

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Give each child a children's Bible and read aloud Malachi 3:10 while the kids follow along in their Bibles. Explain that God is instructing each of us to bring our tithe to the storehouse, which is another word for church. The children need to understand first that tithing is a command given by God, just like honoring your parents and not telling lies.

Hand each child 10 chocolate chips. Tell the children to pretend that the chocolate chips are dollars they earned for a job, like walking a dog or raking the neighbor's leaves. Read aloud Proverbs 3:9-10, which talks about honoring God with your firstfruits. Ask the children to put the first chocolate chip you gave them aside. Let them know that this is the tithe, or firstfruit from the work that they did. This is what belongs to God.

Have the kids pass around a plastic cup and have each child place his firstfruit in the cup, as if they were taking part in giving their tithes in a church service.

Tell the children to eat five of the chocolate chips. The five chocolate chips represent the food and bills they need to pay from their paychecks. Ask them how many chocolate chips remain. They should have four chocolate chips left. Set two stuffed animals on the table. Tell the children that the animals are hungry and have no money to buy food. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:7, which states that God loves a cheerful giver. Give the students an opportunity to share some of their leftover chocolate chips with the starving animals. Explain that this is an offering because it is above the tithe that they gave earlier.

OFFERING IDEAS WITHOUT OBJECT LESSON: decide on your own exiting object lesson or activity.

Give to Be Blessed

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw

open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” (Malachi 3:10)

Giving is not just about sacrifice. It is God’s way of ritually introducing us into the flow of sowing and reaping that is the subcurrent of his creation. Participate in the harvest that God has for us by sowing your gift with him today.

2. Give From the Heart

“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:33-34)

Where is your heart when you come to church? Is it in your family? Is it on your wealth? Is it on your limitations? I want to invite you today to sow an eternal legacy by giving to God from the treasures that you cannot take with you.

3. Why You Give

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

The first law of thermodynamics states that matter cannot be created or destroyed. There is a similar moral principle in the Bible about good and evil. What you put out into God’s creation will bring a return for good or evil. What you add to the wellbeing of life on earth, you receive back in fulfilment. What you take and scratch and steal will be taken, scratched, and stolen back.

God desires to multiply that good through us *now* while we’re on earth. That’s why he created the church. So I’d like to ask of you, today, to give because that’s why God created you — to enjoy him and to bring that joy to others.

4. What God Does With Your Gift

“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” (Proverbs 18:16)

God knows the power of a gift. That’s why he didn’t institute a “church tax.” He wanted every gift to be given from one’s own will so that when the blessings come, we understand how God worked through our gift to prosper our wellbeing.

You have a moment of opportunity to be ushered into the presence of God by giving to him, as he so graciously has given to us. Will you enter into the presence of God with me by worshipping him through a gift?

5. What God Does In You When You Give

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

In important ways, money is power. God has more power than anyone. He shares it with us freely so that we can experience this wild and interesting life with him. Part of that life is the life of the church. And to be in vital communion with God and in alignment with his mission, we care for our members and our community. I ask that you would give to that care now so that God’s power can flow through us to heal the broken in our church and community.

6. The Role of Giving in God’s Kingdom

“You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

God gives us the blessing of being able to work, earn, save, spend, and accumulate wealth. We do this for our children. We do this for our community. We do this for ourselves. But we also do it to honor God as faithful stewards. And as stewards, we joyfully worship God each Sunday by giving back to him from what we have earned so that the church can do meaningful work for God’s kingdom in the world. Would you join me in worshipping God as faithful stewards through giving?

7. We Give Because We Get It

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Have you ever listened to someone that makes you think: “Wow. They *get it*!” Maybe it’s a podcaster who articulates your political views very well, or a book that explains you better than you could explain yourself. But we all know what it’s like to *love* finding someone else who *gets it*, whatever *it* is.

God loves everybody. But what he loves about a cheerful giver is that they *get it*. They *get* the connection between spiritual growth and generosity. They *get* that giving is itself a blessing to the giver. They *get* it. Not that those who aren’t in a position to give don’t *get it*. But there are far more of those who *can* and *don’t*, and those who think they *can’t*, but probably *could*.

To both of you, God says: “I love a cheerful giver!”

8. Lack of Generosity Causes Spiritual Stiffness

“Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!” (Psalm 119:36)

It’s interesting how the Psalmist contrasts God’s testimonies with selfish gain. Note, too, that there is no contrast between *gain* and God’s testimonies—only *selfish gain*.

But what makes something selfish? For the Psalmist, it has to do with the heart, since he prays “Incline my heart … *not* to selfish gain!” The physical heart can do *many* things, but the spiritual heart does a few *big* things. One thing is to *hold* or *release*.

When you think of your money, does your heart *hold* or *release*? If it can release, it’s not selfish gain. If it can’t, it might be lingering beneath the surface.

One way God helps us fight against grasping so tightly onto our money that it gets in the way of God’s testimonies to us is to give to the church. God tells us to do it, and he knows it’s an ailment for hearts that are often inclined toward selfishness. Would

you release your heart today and give to God as we incline our heart toward his testimonies?

9. Generosity Prevents Idolatry

"All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing." (Proverbs 21:26)

Speaking of the wicked man, the book of Proverbs tells us that his craving lasts "all day long." It means when he goes to work, he "craves for more." That's natural. You want your endeavours to succeed.

Then he goes home, and he still "craves for more." He sits down for dinner and "craves for more." He gets into bed, wakes up, and "craves for more." Then, he goes to church, and he still "craves for more."

The righteous, by contrast, give without sparing. It's a paradox, right? If you give without sparing, won't *you* be the one who "craves for more"? Not in God's world. To give a portion of our earnings to God keeps our hearts reminded of the God who not only calls us to give, but blesses us in return.

10. Giving is a Spiritual Gift

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8)

You all have many gifts. Some are called to give more, and some are called to give less. But when we are called to give, we are called to give generously.

Would you consider *being* the body of Christ with us by giving now, in our weekly opportunity to give back to god?

11. Give to God's Kingdom

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

Notice the connection the Apostle Paul makes between increasing your store of seed and enlarging the harvest of your righteousness. When we are equipped with enough resources to give generously, our capacity to produce a greater effect is increased.

Paul makes a holy assumption here that, as God supplies, the Corinthians by the time of his writing would use the blessings appropriately—that is, for righteous works, such as funding the mission and work of the church.

Join me in practicing the Apostle Paul’s generous assumption here today as we give to the Lord with what he has given us.

12. When We Give, We Become Like Christ

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

It is tempting to always look for the “return on investment” on your generosity. And that is worthwhile, because we must be excellent stewards of God’s money. But sometimes, generosity is more about what God is doing in us through giving than it is about knowing exactly how that gift will be used.

We are entering that moment right now in our service, when we are all challenged once again to believe the promise of Jesus; “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Will you join me in trusting this promise by giving to the church?

13. Create Margin in Your Life

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

God doesn’t care if we have 2 pennies or 2 Billion dollars. When we give according to what we have, we please him with an offering from the heart. He works in us to create margin so that we are not always busting at our budget’s seams.

Today, I am inviting you to create margin in your life — no matter what you make — to make margin for God to work, for you to breathe, and for the church to thrive.

14. Be Uncomfortable for the Kingdom’s Legacy

“All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord.” (Exodus 35:22)

When Israel first built the tabernacle under Moses, fresh out of Egypt, they all gave their most valuable objects so that Israel could extend the kingdom of God in a manner worthy of the Lord. I’m sure many of them felt the sting—”That was my wedding ring,” “That was my mother's brooch,” “I paid a fortune for that ring.”

And yet, it was all worth it — “All who were willing, men and women alike … all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord.” What a beautiful picture of luxurious generosity for the sake of honoring the majesty of God.

I would like us to give in that spirit today.

15. God Gets to You What He Can Get through You

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

There is a deep connection between wealth and opportunity. Every dollar that passes through our hands is a transfer of power. And how we use that power is something that shapes us, for better or worse.

One of the ways God turns us into more generous, thankful, joyful people is by blessing us with money so that we can give it back to the kingdom and “result in thanksgiving to God.”

Will you join with me in becoming a thankful people by giving back to the kingdom?

16. The Church is Meant to Be a Financial Force for Good

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

The connection between what we do in this life, and how we are rewarded in the next, becomes very vague when you get into the details. What can we really expect from God? God loves this question and puts the metaphor in Scripture — he says, “Let’s pretend a tithe is a consumer transaction. Let’s say you’re paying me, whom you know, trust, and love, money to return the cost of that gift to you in a form of my choosing, because I know and love you.”

God promises to bless us when we give—that blessing may be spiritual enrichment, the joy of being used by God, or something more concrete. But the point is that what we give to God, we always get back. So join me in trusting God that whatever he gives us in return, it will be worth it.

17. Look at What God Has Done through Your Generosity

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:24-25)

When we fail to cultivate generosity, it is easy to isolate ourselves from the natural give-and-take of human relationships, and so we experience no give or take.

Giving is a way of opening ourselves to opportunity. When we choose to be God’s opportunity of help and love for another person, we place ourselves in God’s design for giving and receiving from one another.

Would you step into this opportunity to be like the one who gives freely in Proverbs?

18. The Experience of Giving Changes Us

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

Paul wrote this after receiving a financial gift from the Philippian church. He says: "Because you made a financial sacrifice to the church as an expression of God's generosity to you, both the ministry it produces and the satisfaction of being used by God will be all the sweeter."

There's something irreplaceable about giving. It does something in us — it makes us uncomfortable in a way that we need, but scarcely want. But we all want to be the kind of *people* that being generous makes us.

Would you make a financial sacrifice for the sake of the kingdom as an expression of your gratitude toward God's generosity toward you in christ?

19. Give to Worship God

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

The author of Hebrews speaks of giving as a discipline. Notice that he could have equated doing good with anything.

"Do not neglect to do good and to pray."

"Do not neglect to do good and to study the Bible."

"Do not neglect to do good and to volunteer at church."

But he says something else — something at the heart of doing good: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Will you join me in making a sacrifice pleasing to God by sharing what you have with the kingdom today?

20. Grow God's Legacy By Giving **1/5/22**

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30)

We often forget how rich God is.
Ask the kids to name a few things that belong to God.
Send a few show a few pictures on the projector of wonderful or beautiful or big things that belong to God to give them clues

Asking you to give to the church doesn’t help God’s financial reputation. If everything belongs to him, why do we give a tithe or an offering back to him?

One reason is that we need to remember that God really *does* own everything. Even the money that you get from your parents when you do your chores!
“Everything from the land … belongs to the Lord.”

When you put your “heart” or your money into the offering bag today, everyone say out loud what is the most wonderful thing (for you) that God owns.
(They like saying it into the microphone) If there are too many kids, just ask 5 of them to come to the front and put their offering in the bag while saying what they think is the most wonderful thing.



5. Dramatized Lesson: Ties or Tithes?

Notes:

Materials & Personnel: A puppet or clown and several ties.

Preparation: Rehearse this skit ahead of time.

Presentation:
Thandi: *(Interrupts the lesson, wearing several ties.)* Oh, what a beautiful day! I just love coming to church.

Teacher: Excuse me, Thandi, but you are interrupting our lesson.

Thandi: Oh, I'm sorry. But I can't wait to show you what I brought for Jesus.

Teacher: Did you bring something to give to God today?

Thandi: Yes, I sure did. I have been listening to all of your teaching and your stories, so I brought my ties.

Teacher: You mean you brought your tithes.

Thandi: That is right! I brought my ties. See, I've got them right here around my neck—all of my ties.

Teacher. No, no Thandi. I did not say ties, I said tithes. You must have misunderstood me. Did you think all this time we were talking about ties?

Thandi: Yes, that is why I am wearing all these ties, because the Bible tells us to give our ties.

Teacher: The Bible tells us to give our tithes. This means that we give one tenth of everything we earn to God.

Thandi: So you mean God only wants one of these ties?

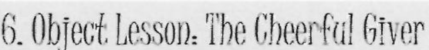
Teacher: Well, not exactly. God wants one tenth of whatever you earn.

Thandi: So I don't have to wear all these ties?

Teacher: No, you don't.

Thandi: Good, because they are hurting my neck. You know, now I feel stupid! God must think I am really dumb.

Teacher: No, Thandi. I am sure that God is pleased with you. He knows that your heart was right. You see, God is more concerned with your attitude when you give than He is with what you give. I think you are a very cheerful giver and that would please God.



6. Object Lesson: The Cheerful Giver

Materials: Two blindfolds and two sweets.

This is an important object lesson because children need to learn to give out of a cheerful heart rather than duty.

Preparation: Blindfold two volunteers. Place a sweet in front of them and keep the other piece hidden for later.

Presentation: Right now I need two volunteers to help me demonstrate a lesson about giving. *(Choose two volunteers and blindfold them.)* I am going to place a sweet on the floor in front of you. I want you to feel around until one of you finds the piece. We will help you by telling you where to feel. *(Begin the game. End when one child has the sweet.)*

Now that was fun! But what does it have to do with giving? Let me show you. **Ask:** "Will you give me that sweet?" *(Ask the child who found the*


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